

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN), BR, PN

SUBJECT: OMAR THINKS ROSALYNN IS STUPENDOUS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA PERSONALLY CALLED THE EMBASSY TODAY TO PASS ON TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM GENERAL TORRIJOS.

2. GONZALEZ-REVILLA SAID THAT GENERAL TORRIJOS HAD JUST FINISHED READING A NEWS ARTICLE ABOUT MRS. CARTER'S ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL AND WAS VERY IMPRESSED. TORRIJOS REFERRED TO MRS. CARTER'S ACTIVITIES AS "STUPENDOUS". GONZALEZ-REVILLA DID NOT SPECIFY EXACTLY WHAT SO IMPRESSED THE GENERAL, BUT MERELY SAID THAT TORRIJOS WANTED HIS REACTION PASSED ON TO US.

3. THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION IS BY ZOILA G. MARTINEZ DE VEGA OF THE SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EFE AND IS DATED BRASILIA JUNE 7. THE FOLLOWING IS THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE, AS TRANSLATED BY THE EMBASSY:

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"HURRICANE ROSALYNN PASSES THROUGH BRAZIL.

"ROSALYNN CARTER DID NOT COME TO BRASILIA AS FIRST LADY, BUT AS 'SECOND PRESIDENT' OF THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO THE CONCLUSION DRAWN TODAY, AT THE END OF HER VISIT, BY OBSERVERS AND JOURNALISTS.

"A FIRST LADY VISITS INVALID REHABILITATION CENTERS, INAUGURATES ORPHANAGES, CUTS RIBBONS AT ORCHID EXHIBITS. BUT A "'SECOND PRESIDENT' SPEAKS ABOUT BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE EXTERNAL DEBT WITH THE MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND THE GUIDELINES OF HER POLITICS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

"A FIRST LADY MAKES EXCLUSIVE DECLARATIONS TO AN INOFFENSIVE MAGAZINE. A 'SECOND PRESIDENT', WITH NO MORE DEFENSE THAN AN INTERPRETER, CONFRONTS THE FREE AND INDISCREET QUESTIONS OF A HUNDRED EXPERIENCED JOURNALISTS.

"THAT IS WHAT ROSALYNN CARTER DID DURING THE TWO DAYS OF HER OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRASILIA: THE POLITICAL FUNCTION OF A 'SECOND PRESIDENT' AND NOT SOCIAL DUTIES.

"DURING HER UNUSUALLY LONG INTERVIEW THIS MORNING WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL, SHE HAD AN AGENDA OF FORTY TYPEWRITTEN PAGES TO GUIDE HER; THOUGH THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE NOT REVEALED, SHE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THEY INCLUDED THE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS OF CARTER'S POLICIES.

"WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONION AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA YESTERDAY SHE DEALT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION--THE TWO PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE COOLED BILATERAL RELATIONS.

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"WITH THE MINISTER OF TREASURY, MARIO HENRIQUE SIMONSEN, THIS AFTERNOON SHE TALKED ABOUT THE VERY HIGH BRAZILIAN EXTERNAL DEBT OF 27 BILLION DOLLARS, HALF OF WHICH IS OWED TO US CREDITORS, AND ABOUT BILATERAL TRADE AND U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON BRAZILIAN PRODUCTS; ESPECIALLY SHOES.

"SHE MANAGED HER PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON IN THE NATIONAL HOTEL WITH DIPLOMATIC FINESSE, BUT SHE SAID EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTED TO SAY AND WHAT THE BRAZILIANS DID NOT WANT HER TO SAY.

"SHE SAID THAT THE CARTER GOVERNMENT HAS A 'PROFOUND COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS' TO WHICH FOREIGN AID IS CONDITIONED, THOUGH SHE KNEW THAT THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCED THE MILITARY AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES THREE MONTHS AGO BECAUSE OF THE REPORT PRESENTED TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ON THIS COUNTRY'S RECORD (ON HUMAN RIGHTS).

"SHE SAID THAT THE CARTERS HAVE GREATER SYMPATHY FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REGIMES OF THE HEMISPHERE THAN FOR THE MILITARY GOVERNMENTS, THOUGH SHE KNEW THAT BRAZIL IS RULED BY A RESTRICTED DEMOCRACY.

"AND HERE THE 'SECOND PRESIDENT' BETRAYED THE FIRST LADY, SAYING, 'MY HUSBAND I HAVE VERY MUCH IN MIND THE VALUES OF OUR COUNTRY AND WE FEEL VERY NEAR TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE RULED BY THOSE SAME VALUES'."

4. COMMENT: TORRIJOS MUST BE IN A GOOD MOOD WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES, SINCE A FAVORABLE MESSAGE FOR OUR GOVERNMENT FROM TORRIJOS IS RARE. THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS TRANSMITTED IS LIKEWISE UNUSUAL. HIS DESIRE THAT WE KNOW IF HIS APPROBATION OF MRS. CARTER'S ACTIVITIES MAY ALSO REPRESENT AN EFFORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SOFTEN UP THE UNITED STATES AS THE NEGOTIATIONS RESUME. IT IS ALSO PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE ARTICLE'S AUTHOR WAS A FRIEND OF TORRIJOS', WHEN HE WAS ASSIGNED TO PANAMA SEVERAL YEARS AGO. WE ARE CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS A GENUINE EXPRESSION OF TORRIJOS' FEELINGS; ONE OF THE PECULIARITIES OF THIS EMINENTLY MACHO AND CHAUVINISTIC MALE IS THAT HE HAS A WEAKNESS FOR WOMEN WHO SPEAK THEIR MINDS. GONZALEZ

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